

Draft minutes of ALM meeting held at Oxford Town Hall on Tuesday 4th October 2016.

Present:

Samantha Chapman -Van Dieman's Lane, Colin Sharp - Lenthall Rd, Nick Jackson - OsneyStJohn & New Botley, Mike Halliwell - HDAA, John Hastings & Faith Phipps - Cowmead, Phil Creme - Elder Stubbs, Bill Wright Russell Price and Roger Cann – Sorrel Rd, Roy Leach – Kestrel Cr, Maureen Devenish Eric Perkins and Mary Cooper – JGW, David Colbeck – St Clements, Tony Harris John Lardner Eden Drive, Neville Dodson – Brasenose, Rebecca Mead Andrew Fairweather-Tall – Barracks Lane, Ian Thompson – Parks OCC, Tony Hollander – Trap Grounds, Brian McMillan & Robert Benthall – Ramsay Rd, Clare Ferguson – East, Liesl Osman – Upper Wolvercote, Michael Walker – Spragglesea Mead & Deans Ham, Robert Findlay – Cutteslowe, Clive Bevan – Minchery Farm West, Christine Mitchell – Old Marston Mill Lane, Sharon Murray & David Allen – South Ward, Wendy SkinnerSmith – Cripsey Meadow, CLLR Linda Smith – Oxford City Council [23 Sites represented]

Apologies – Tim Treacher, Ian Sheppard.

Meeting was chaired by Wendy Skinner Smith, reps from 23 sites and Parks were thanked for attending, CLLR Linda Smith welcomed as CLLR linked to Parks and Environment.

Minutes of meeting held in April were agreed as an accurate record.

Grants – 9 bids submitted during August had met the criteria agreed at the April Meeting, and were recommended for approval. Unanimous agreement. One bid failed to meet criteria and was recommended for non payment. Total Spending at £3858 was £1058 above fund available, but met from reactive budget. Two bids had been lost in the OCC system. They will be reviewed by Parks to see if can be met from reactive budget.

Capital Spending Programme – funding [£60K] now available to restart 3yr fencing programme begun in 2007, but suspended in 2009. To include Brasenose, Fairacres, Eden Drive, Fairview, Lenthall Road, St Clements[? Issue], Minchery Farm West, Old Marston Mill Lane [?] and Spragglesea Mead /Dean's Ham. Barracks Lane also needed to be included. Parks to visit these sites in next 2 weeks to measure up, submit bid and complete installation by end December.

Signage – JL and WSS apologised for slow progress, many problems had arisen in format of some signs. Drafts approved and adjusted by reps at meeting. Should be to signs shop in next week. JL will alert sites and arrange distribution.

Competition – An excellent presentation evening had been held on 27 Sept, thanks expressed to Tim Treacher, noted that he was retiring from competition after 9 years. No Competition in 2017 as no one had stepped up for inservice training with the 2016 judging. Scheme has been rested at intervals before. The job spec for competition organiser and committee roles will be recirculated in readiness for the April meeting. It was proposed by WSS that the £950 used by Parks for this scheme should be added to the grant fund for the year in order that the money is fed back to sites albeit in a different way. Agreed. Tony Harris [ED] proposed a vote of thanks for Tim Treacher and his team for their work. Agreed.

Flood Channel meeting report. – WSS reported on the recent Environment Agency Flood relief channel meeting – separate notes for this had been circulated. The plan will affect 7 sites, a third of allotment holders – four of the sites being big sites. EA had agreed that maintenance of existing streams might help in managing water. One consequence of the scheme is that water may be held on the flood plain for longer and be deeper. Bunds noted as issues still to resolve at Cowmead and Bullstake sites. Bullstake concerned that the temporary barrier proposed by Fire and Rescue along their Abingdon Road boundary may cause worsening of flood. CLLR Smith to check this. WSS emphasised that ODFAA is not trying to reduce allotment flooding at expense of houses.

Nov 15 ODFAA talk by Chis Bird – posters circulated. Pdf to be on ODFAA website. Everyone encouraged to attend and publicise amongst allotment holders

Planning applications – long ongoing issue at the **Horspath** site has led to extra money being made available to develop the previously designated land at Minchery Farm East – **Denny Gardens**. Approx 8 plots. Site is fenced but needs finishing [shed to install, pathway to lay, water, whilst a committee/constitution/lease need establishing. JL to progress this in absence of WSS. **Barton fields** – development progressing.

AOB

Problems with the circulation of minutes and agendas once again noted. Agreed to the need to revert to emailing **ALL names** held on the contact list so that at least someone from each site should then pick up the importance of messages.

Trap Grounds have put a set of good practice guidelines on their web covering use of chemical fertilisers and organic manure. We are all in a vulnerable zone for nitrate leaching, farms in the area are regulated.

The treasurer raised the issue of bank signatories and account access. He asked for the meeting to agree to establish a pinsentry access code to be able to speak to telephone banking and gain access to the online statements. Motion agreed by meeting unanimously. The Treasurer also asked for an extra permitted signatory [Committee member Nick Jackson] to the account as WSS will be out of the country for three months. Account will then operate as any two of four signatories. Currently signatories [2 of 3] are Wendy Skinner Smith, Tim Treacher and John Lardner. Unanimous agreement for addition of this extra signatory.

Water harvesting

The meeting closed at 8.25pm, but continued with a presentation by Nick Jackson on the potential of water harvesting on our allotment sites. A power-point presentation was used, which will be added to the ODFAA website. Opportunities to visit the New Botley site where he has examples which can be seen and explained will be made available in the winter months. Invitation to book a visit will be circulated. JL/NJ to act.

Next meeting Tuesday 17th January 2017
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JL/7Oct2016.

